AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (original): A method of producing an animal characterized by a high growth phenotype, said method comprising inhibiting expression of a Socs2 gene.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein said inhibiting is by disrupting said gene by homologous recombination with a nucleic acid that undergoes homologous recombination with ~~a~~ said Socs2 gene and introduces a disruption in said *Socs2* gene.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a selectable marker.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim 10, wherein said selectable marker is ~~as~~ a *neo* or a *hyg* gene or cDNA.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A knockout non-human mammal, said mammal comprising cells containing a recombinantly introduced disruption in a Socs2 gene, wherein said disruption results in said knockout mammal exhibiting decreased levels of SOCS2 protein as compared to a wild-type mammal.

Claim 13 (original): The knockout mammal of claim 12, wherein said mammal displays a high growth (hg) phenotype.

Claim 14 (original): The knockout mammal of claim 12, wherein said mammal is selected from the group consisting of an equine, a bovine, a rodent, a porcine, a lagomorph, a feline, a canine, a murine, a caprine, an ovine, and a non-human primate.

Claim 15 (original): The knockout mammal of claim 12, wherein, wherein the disruption is selected from the group consisting of an insertion, a deletion, a frameshift mutation, a substitution, and a stop codon.

Claim 16 (original): The knockout mammal of claim 15, wherein, wherein said disruption comprises an insertion of an expression cassette into the endogenous *Socs2* gene.

Claim 17 (original): The knockout mammal of claim 16, wherein, wherein said disruption comprises an expression cassette comprising a selectable marker.

Claim 18 (original): The knockout mammal of claim 16, wherein the expression cassette comprises a neomycin phosphotransferase gene operably linked to at least one regulatory element.

Claim 19 (original): The knockout mammal of claim 12, wherein said disruption is in a somatic cell.

Claim 20 (original): The knockout mammal of claim 12, wherein said disruption is in a germ cell.

Claim 21 (original): The knockout mammal of claim 12, wherein the mammal is homozygous for the disrupted *Socs2* gene.

Claim 22 (original): The knockout mammal of claim 12, wherein the mammal is heterozygous for the disrupted *Socs2* gene.

Claims 23-26 (canceled).

Claim 27 (currently amended): A knockout rodent comprising a recombinantly introduced disruption in an endogenous ~~SOCS2~~ *Socs2* gene ~~(*Socs2*)~~ wherein said disruption results in said knockout rodent exhibiting decreased levels of SOCS2 protein as compared to a wild-type rodent.

Claim 28 (original): The knockout rodent of claim 27, wherein said mammal displays a high growth (hg) phenotype.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The knockout rodent of claim 27, ~~wherein,~~ wherein the disruption is selected from the group consisting of an insertion, a deletion, a frameshift mutation, a substitution, and a stop codon.

Claim 30 (original): The knockout rodent of claim 27, wherein, wherein said disruption comprises an insertion of an expression cassette into the endogenous *Socs2* gene.

Claim 31 (original): The knockout mammal of claim 30, wherein, wherein said disruption comprises an expression cassette comprising a selectable marker.

Claim 32 (original): The knockout mammal of claim 30, wherein the expression cassette comprises a neomycin phosphotransferase gene operably linked to at least one regulatory element.

Claim 33 (original): The knockout rodent of claim 27, wherein said disruption is in a somatic cell.

Claim 34 (original): The knockout rodent of claim 27, wherein said disruption is in a germ cell.

Claim 35 (original): The knockout rodent of claim 27, wherein the rodent is homozygous for the disrupted *Socs2* gene.

Claim 36 (original): The knockout rodent of claim 27, wherein the rodent is heterozygous for the disrupted *Socs2* gene.

Claims 37-76 (canceled).